Success Story

PROFI
Innovative IT-Lösungen

The challenge

PROFI Engineering Systems AG is a medium-sized system house with around 340 employees. The company creates individual high-quality IT infrastructure solutions for the optimization of IT processes and system environments. PROFI AG has offices throughout Germany, which are networked with the headquarters in Darmstadt. Intensive data traffic between the sites called for increased bandwidth and redundant protection.

The solution

PROFI AG has been a customer of noris network AG since 2004, utilizing network services and repeatedly making use of noris network's data centers for its own computer systems and equipment of its customers. The service provider met the need for modernization of PROFI's corporate network by implementing a star-shaped high-availability network architecture of encrypted links and standardizing the integration of twelve locations.

The successful project

Since end of 2011, PROFI AG has an MPLS (Multi-protocol Label Switching) network and a parallel WAN, which both converge in a data center operated by noris network. The service provider secures the data flow of the system house through a firewall cluster and operates PROFI AG's communication channels as an IPsec VPN. This network carries Lotus Notes and file services, as well as backups, without any failures to the company's headquarters in Darmstadt.

PROFI network with MPLS

noris network

Established in 1984, PROFI Engineering Systems AG is a steadily growing medium-sized system. The company currently employs about 340 staff at 14 locations throughout Germany. Numerous awards demonstrate the confidence the company enjoys among customers and manufacturers - particularly as an SAP partner and one of the most important IBM partners in Germany. In addition to companies of all sizes, PROFI AG works for local, municipal and state authorities. In line with the establishment and fast growth of the company's locations distributed across Germany, the corporate network grew rapidly - based, however, on several network operators, heterogeneous local environments and bandwidths. To simplify its operations, the company decided to standardize and centralize its IT environment and thus opted for Multi-protocol Label Switching (MPLS) as a future-proof technology framework.

Increased levels of security

Multi-protocol Label Switching is a technology for broadband networks, which supports the connection-oriented transmission of data packets over the - actually connectionless - Internet. That is, the data takes a predetermined path. In addition, latency-sensitive services such as VoIP can be prioritized by choosing specific quality-of-service settings as needed. MPLS establishes a kind of Virtual Private Network (VPN), but PROFI AG wanted an even higher level of security. This

allows, for example, to set up redundant paths for the data and encrypt the communication.

Standardized connection

To this end, noris network set up two routers in each branch office and took over their monitoring and configuration. For the 5Mbps and 10Mbps lines carried over an MPLS network and for the backup lines routed via other carriers, noris network operates encrypted IPsec VPNs. The lines coming from the branch offices and the Darmstadt-based headquarters merge in a high-security data center of noris network, which is secured by a firewall cluster. The service provider monitors the smooth operation of the network and conducts disaster recovery tests.

Data & facts

- Redundant networking of twelve locations
- Centralized MPLS network for communication and backup
- Protection based on IPsec virtual private networks
- Operation of a firewall cluster
- Configuration, monitoring and test of the network equipment

PROFI Engineering Systems AG

PROFI Engineering Systems AG is a medium-sized system house with headquarters in Darmstadt. The IT service provider has been supporting its customers for almost 30 years with individual, high-quality IT solutions and strategies. The service portfolio ranges from consultancy and conceptual design, provisioning and implementation, to operation and maintenance of IT landscapes. In addition, PROFI offers specialized software solutions to local, regional and state authorities for applications in the public services sector. In 2011, PROFI was voted in a customer survey as the "best German system house" in the category "medium-sized companies".

noris network AG

Nuremberg-based noris network AG offers enterprise customers tailor-made ICT solutions in the areas of IT outsourcing, cloud services and network & security. Technological basis of these services is a powerful IT infrastructure that relies on noris network's own high-performance backbone and multiple high-security data centers. noris network AG is fully certified according to ISO/IEC 27001 and ISO/IEC 20000 and has a BSI certification for its own data centers. The data centers have been awarded the maximum rating of five stars in the eco Datacenter Star Audit conducted by eco (Association of the German Internet Industry).